

NEW BEDFORD  
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The Southeastern Health Project wishes to express its endorsement of the "In-Harbor" containment option for the disposal of toxic wastes found in the Acushnet River Estuary, as outlined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in their release of November 30, 1984. While our organization has pushed for the destruction rather than the landfilling of toxic wastes, we feel that the in-harbor option is preferable to all other alternatives offered by EPA. In no way should our endorsement of this option be construed as advocacy for the dumping of wastes in the proposed facility, either toxic or non-toxic, which originated outside of the Acushnet River Estuary.

We favor in-harbor containment because it does not force the responsibility for our clean-up onto a second community. The wastes present in the Acushnet River Estuary, for the most part, originated from sources outside of the Greater New Bedford Area. To merely ship our problems to another community would be hypocritical at best and a great hazard to public safety.

We call upon EPA to further consider the various "stabilization" technologies which have been employed at other Superfund sites. Stabilization is now being utilized in the transportation of wastes from the abandoned ReSolve Chemical Refinery in North Dartmouth, MA. While we understand no stabilizing procedure can guarantee the permanent encapsulation of wastes, it is vital, should the Agency ultimately choose in-harbor containment, that safety measures be taken to prevent the leaching of wastes from their final resting place.

The clean-up of the Estuary and the harbor have been a long time coming. The Southeastern Health Project commends the EPA for working to keep this project on schedule.

